

Serial No. 10/008,276
Page 2 of 7

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A method for producing a blend output for use by a manufacturer to blend component ingredients to form a blended product, comprising:

(a) downloading, over a network, time-sensitive data representing the current cost of at least one material whose price fluctuates based at least in part on market conditions;

(b) using said downloaded current cost information to calculate an actual cost of blending said product;

(c) automatically calculating the difference between said actual blend cost and a model blend cost; and

(d) formulating a blend output to form a blended product based at least in part on said calculation.

13. (currently amended) The method as in ~~claim 11~~ claim 12 wherein said material comprises grain and said downloaded cost data comprises a grain cost card.

14. (original) A system for controlling grain mixing, said system being coupled over a data network to a source of current grain prices, said system receiving information relating to currently prevailing grain cost, said system including:

a blend processor which, based on desired mix and source bin designations and said currently prevailing grain cost, calculates a blend cost and compares said blend cost with a model cost, said blend processor generating a blend mix output that specifies the amount of each of plural grain lots to mix in order to achieve said desired mix; and

a mass storage device operatively coupled to said blend processor, said mass storage device storing historical data concerning previous blends.

15. (currently amended) The ~~method as in claim 13~~ system of claim 14, wherein said blend processor retrieves currently prevailing grain cost data via said data network at least once a day.

Serial No. 10/008,276

Page 3 of 7

16. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said blend processor generates a blend entry data form providing interactive user input/output.

17. (currently amended) The system ~~as in of claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said blend mix output includes number of bushel information, percent protein information, and grain moisture information.

18. (currently amended) The system ~~as in of claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said blend mix output includes information indicating a difference between actual blend cost and model blend cost.

19. (currently amended) The system ~~as in of claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said blend processor further produces a blend summary sheet for previous blends.

20. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said blend processor prints a blend mix sheet and a blend summary sheet.

21. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein said grain comprises wheat and said blend processor specifies a blend of plural wheat lots to provide flour of a desired grade.

22-32. (cancelled)

33. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the current cost of at least one material is downloaded over a network at least once a day.